Karnataka, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The beneficiaries received assistance for various components like certified seed processing plants, seed storage, strengthening of breeder seed production units, Seed Certification Agencies and Seed Testing Laboratories, etc.

Cotton Yield

4253. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the average yield of cotton achieved under field conditions in India are among the lowest in the world;

(b) what are the reasons for such low yields of cotton;

(c) the State-wise average cotton yields, including Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the steps proposed to increase cotton yield per acre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Low yield of cotton in India is mainly attributed to agro-economic and agro-climatic conditions under which it is cultivated.

(c) State-wise average yield per hectare of cotton during 1993-94 is annexed as statement (*See* below).

(d) To increase the productivity and production of cotton, Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme in important cotton growing States. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided on distribution of quality seeds, sprinkler sets for irrigation and plant protection equipments. Financial assistance is also provided for organising demonstration of improved technology, integrated pest management and training of farmers.

Statement

State-wise average yield (per hectare in Kg.) of Major Cotton Producing States — 1993-94

State	1993-94
Andhra Pradesh	357
Gujarat	278
Haryana	399
Karnataka	274
Madhya Pradesh	147
Maharashtra	172
Punjab	452
Rajasthan	275
Tamil Nadu	282
All India	264

Provision of Additional Funds for NCDC

4254. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what decision Government have taken on the Maharashtra Government's request for providing additional funds to the National Cooperative Development Corporation so as to enable it to provide assistance to the sugar factories;

(b) what are the details thereof; and

(c) if decision has not been taken, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) The Government of Maharashtra had sent a request in March, 1994 to the National Cooperative Development Corporation for release of Rs. 87.84 crore for setting up of 19 new Cooperative Sugar Factories. Assistance under this scheme is sanctioned by N.C.D.C. only after the term loans are sanctioned by the Central Financial Institutions after the appraisal of these projects. The N.C.D.C. has so far received sanction letters in respect of 16 projects from the Central Financial Institutions and the Board of Management of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has approved investment loan assistance in respect of 5 new co-operative sugar factories for

Rs. 30.09 crore. In respect of the remaining 11 projects, the Screening Committee of the N.C.D.C. has considered 10 of them and has recommended sanction of investment loan assistance of Rs. 50.49 crore in respect of 9 new cooperative sugar factories while in respect of the remaining one it has suggested to ascertain the availability of sugar cane in the area before a decision could be taken in the matter. The final decision with regard to these projects would be taken by the Board of Management of the N.C.D.C. As regards the last project, the sanction letter of the Central Financial Institution has been received by National Cooperative Development Corporation on 23.8.94 only.

Production of Mushroom

4255. SHRI TULASIDAS MAJJI:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how much mushroom is produced annually in the country State-wise;

(b) what is the total annual demand for mushroom consumption in the country; and

(c) what steps are being taken to boost mushroom production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) As mushroom growing is in the unorganised sector, authentic statistics for its production are not available. Estimated production figures for 1992-93 for major mushroom growing States is given in Statement (*see* below)

(b) No statistics of demand for mushroom consumption in the country are available.

(c) Government of India is implementing a Central Sector Scheme for Mushroom Cultivation during the 8th Plan at a total cost of Rs. 10 crores. The major components of the scheme are:

(i) Establishment of Spawn Production Units (29)

(ii) Establishment of Pasturised Compost Units (29)

(iii) Training of farmers in mushroom production (27200 Nos.)

In addition, National Horticulture Board also provides assistance to integrated projects on mushroom production and marketing to the extent of 40% of the project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 1.00 crores as soft loan.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries also provides assistance for meeting the capital expenditure on setting up of spawn laboratories, compost pasturisation facilities and processing facilities for mushrooms, to public sector/ Cooperative/joint sector/assisted sector projects/voluntary/autonomous organisations/ undertakings.

Statement

State-wise estimated production of Mushrooms

Sl. No.	States	1992-93 (MT)	Projected for 1994-95
1.	Andhra Pradesh	300	500
2.	Bihar	5	10
3.	Delhi	500	600
4.	Gujarat	10	15
5.	Haryana	1650	3000
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2000	3500
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	300	500
8.	Karnataka	500	600
9.	Kerala	300	700
10.	Madhya Pradesh	200	1200
11.	Maharashtra	250	500
12.	Orissa	50	600
13.	Punjab	1200	4200
14.	Rajasthan	5	10
15.	Tamil Nadu	1200	4500
16.	Uttar Pradesh	2500	3500
17.	West Bengal	50	1200
18.	Others	500	1000
	TOTAL :	11520	26135

Loss due to natural calamities

4256. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total loss of lives, property,